

Pronouns . . .

Uses of Pronouns

766.1

Object Pronouns

An object pronoun (*me, you, him, her, it, us, them*) can be used as the object of a verb or preposition. (See **746.4**, **746.5**, and **790.1**.)

I'll call her as soon as I can. (direct object)

Hand me the phone book, please. (indirect object)

She thinks these flowers are from you. (object of the preposition)

766.2

Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun shows possession or ownership. These possessive pronouns function as adjectives before nouns: *my, our, his, her, their, its*, and *your*.

School workers are painting our classroom this summer. Its walls will look much better.

These possessive pronouns can be used after verbs: *mine, ours, hers, his, theirs*, and *yours*.

I'm pretty sure this backpack is mine and that one is his.

NOTE An apostrophe is not needed with a possessive pronoun to show possession.

Uses of Personal Pronouns

Singular Pronouns

Plural Pronouns

	Subject Pronouns	Possessive Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Subject Pronoun	Possessive Pronouns	Object Pronouns
First Person	I	my, mine	me	we	our, ours	us
Second Person	you	your, yours	you	you	your, yours	you
Third Person	he	his	him	they	their, theirs	them
	she	her, hers	her			
	it	its	it			

Grammar Practice

Pronouns 5

■ Uses of Pronouns



For each numbered sentence below, write the underlined pronoun or pronouns and identify each as a “subject pronoun,” an “object pronoun,” or a “possessive pronoun.”

Example: Are you aware of the strange creatures of the sea?
you (subject pronoun)

(1) It is home to lobsters, octopuses, and jellyfish, but one of its most unusual inhabitants has to be the squid. Squid range in size from a few inches to more than 50 feet. (2) Ten arms help them swim. (3) They move—always backward—by forcing water through a special valve that acts like a jet engine. (4) This backward motion probably confuses any fish that might want to eat them. (5) A squid can also release an inky cloud that covers its escape.

(6) Even though giant squid live in deep, dark water, their eyes are the largest in the animal kingdom, and they have excellent eyesight. (7) This allows them to find food easily. Their one great natural enemy is the sperm whale; however, people also catch tons of squid. (8) We use them as bait for other fish and, of course, as food for us, too. (9) (My dad loves to eat squid at restaurants.)

Steve O'Shea is a New Zealand zoologist and an expert on squid. (10) He and his team of researchers recently caught what they call a “colossal” squid—even larger than the 50-foot giant squid. (11) He says, “You are not going to want to meet these in the water.” (12) I have to believe him!

Next Step: Write two or three sentences about a sea creature. Use the pronoun *it* in its subject, object, and possessive forms. Read your sentences aloud to a classmate.